years. At present, however, no specific proposals are udner Government's consideration.

Proposal for Export of Edible Oil

698. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export endible oils during the current financial year;

(b) whether all varieties of edible oil have been included in the proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the edible oil which have not been considered in the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Export of edible oils (except groundnut oil) in consumer packs upto 5 Kg. is now freely allowed.

Import of Coal from foreign Countries by Tamil Nadu Government

699. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu Government have recently imported coal from foreign countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and to what extent coal has been imported and is likely to be imported in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Tamilnadu Electricity Board has imported 2.30 lakh tonnes of coal during Aug-Sept'.93. Tamilnadu Government have intimated that there is no proposal to import coal in the near future.

700. *[Transferred to 8th March,* 1994].

Proposal to allow export Oriented units to import tea

701. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow export oriented units to import tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have studied the likely impact of such a move on Indian Tea Industry and the tea growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Import of tea is allowed only to Export Oriented Units and units in Export Processing Zones for re-exports only after blending with Indian teas. While allowing such imports adequate safeguards have been taken by the Govt. to ensure that such imports do not affect the domestic tea industry and also the image of Indian tea in the World market.

(c) Under the scheme which deals with Export Oriented Units, permission is given to import tea for blending with Indian tea for export. This scheme prescribes a minimum of 40% of value addition to be achieved by such enterprises and also stipulates that the Tea Board logo which symbolises pure Indian tea is not to be used in such cases. It also prescribes tea to be exported only in small packets and not in bulk with a view to promoting export of value added teas. These units are not allowed any domestic sale in order to ensure that there is no adverse effect on

local tea industry.

Delinking of social and human issues from trade policy

702. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has stressed at the recent annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, that social and human issues like human rights, child labour and environment should not be made part of trade policy and demanded that such issues be delinked from trade; and

(b) if so, the context in which such a demand was made and the response of the world leaders, particularly the US, thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) This issue came up in a session of the informal gathering of World Economic leaders (IGWEL) in the World Economic Forum meet held at Davos, while discussing the economic scenario in the post Uruguay Round era. The spirit of GAT-93 negotiations was to create a climate of uninterrupted trade flow by removing both tariff and non-tariff barriers. In that context, it was stressed by India that in the area of trade, no extraneous consideration, like human rights, environment, exploitation of labour etc. should be used as non tariff barrier to interrupt free access of goods and services from developing countries to devleoped countries. However, International commitments on these issues should be adhered to an discussed at other appropriate fora.

Threat to enforce quality control regulations of Indian tea

703. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government and the European Community have threatened to enforce quality control regulations on the import of India Tea and in any case of failure to ensure the quality, the Tea Board is requred to share the cost of analysis of the Indian Tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the existing infrastructure available for checking and licensing only those exports which conform to quality control; and

(d) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) European Union has enforced directive of its Council regarding pesticide residues in all Agricultural products including tea. In respect of pesticides & chemicals most commonly used in production of tea in India, maximum residue levels have been stipulated as 0.2 and less mg/kg. In case of Ethion, maximum residual level (MRL) has been fixed at 2 ppm. but in case of Endosulfan the MRL has been fixed at 30 ppm. For the less important chemicals the level have been proposed to be 0.1 to 0.2 ppm. Tea Board has not been asked to shame costs of analysis.

(c) A few laboratories in India are having the facilities for analysing tea samples for residue contents in a limited scale. Tea trade and industry, as and when necessary, get their tea resarch Institute and CSIR Complex, Palampur are in the process of equipping their laboratories for analysing pesticide residue by procuring sophisticated equipments. Shipment licences issued by